

When PEOPLE must be HATED.

(Love-hate #5)

1

- ❖ **Last time:** ✓ We looked at "things" to be hated (concepts, attitudes, actions...).
- ❖ **Today:** ✓ We will look at "people" to be hated.
✓ Then, we will note some patterns or trends.
- ❖ **Next time:** ✓ Our goal will be to conclude with a look at how *God-honoring* love and hate interact (a "practical" application of these things).



Many church-goers use the commands about LOVE as an excuse for ignoring or "cancelling" what Scripture says about HATE.

We should not commit the *opposite* sin of using what the Bible says about HATE as an excuse for neglecting LOVE!

2

What does God "HATE"?

❖ And therefore, people must hate?

✓ **God hates...**

- *Sinful conduct* – actions and attitudes. [~11x]
- *Wicked people*. [6x]
- (One extended passage seems to give examples from both categories.)

✓ **People are to hate...**

- *Sinful conduct* – actions and attitudes. [20x]
- *Wicked people*. [6x]
- Situations that involve people in general. (Here, the context will be most helpful.) [4x]

TODAY

If such concepts are new to us, we will have to decide whether to "cancel" them, or to change the way we think. If we are willing to change, we can look at how these verses relate to our obligation to *love* others.

3

God hating...

✓ **Wicked people.**

[To get a better idea why the word "hate" is used, read the context of each passage.]

- A focus on *nations*: Esau/Edom (a matter pertaining to sovereignty).

"... I **loved** Jacob, but I **hated** Esau. I turned his mountains into a wasteland, and gave his inheritance to the desert jackals."
Malachi 1:2b-3 (CSB)

As it is written: I have **loved** Jacob, but I have **hated** Esau.
Romans 9:13 (CSB)

This hate (and love) was not an *emotion*, but a *choice* that involved God's *covenantal blessings*. The two individuals mentioned ultimately represent the two nations that came from them.

[These verses are about God's sovereign choice, prior to the births of the children. When we look at the human responsibility issue, we discover that Esau later *rejected* those *covenantal blessings*. (Sovereignty and responsibility worked together.)]

4

- A focus on *nations*: Judah and Israel (when the people turned against God).

... I will give the one I **love** into the hands of her enemies. My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest. She roars at me; therefore I **hate** her.
Jeremiah 12:7b-8 (NIV)

Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I **hated** them there. Because of their sinful deeds, I will no longer **love** them...
Hosea 9:15a (NIV)

This hate became necessary, because of the *people's* choice. It was not God's desire.

If we read further in these prophetic Scriptures, we discover this hate is *temporary*. The people will someday repent... and will again be loved.]

5

- A focus on *individuals*: evildoers.

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who **love** violence, he **hates** with a passion. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the Lord is righteous, he **loves** justice; the upright will see his face.
Psalm 11:4-7 (NIV)

The reason for this hate? Because they loved what God hates and rejected what he loves.

This is a *moral* issue; and the people *chose* this evil way (which results in being hated).

6

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil cannot dwell with you.
The boastful cannot stand in your sight;
you **hate** all evildoers.
You destroy those who tell lies;
the LORD abhors violent and treacherous people.

Psalms 5:4-6 (CSB)

The
incompatibility
of God and evil
cannot be
undone.

The first 5 things
mention body
parts; the last 2
mention the
entire person.

The LORD **hates** six things;
in fact, seven are detestable to him:
arrogant eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that plots wicked schemes,
feet eager to run to evil,
a lying witness who gives false testimony,
and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (CSB)

7

God's people hating...

✓ **Wicked people.**

- A focus on nations: The Jebusites. (MAYBE, depends on word meaning.)

"... the Jebusites ... who
are David's **enemies**."
2 Samuel 5:8b (NIV)

OPTION #1:

The word "hate" is translated here as
"enemies" – and might mean nothing
more than this. If this is the case, it
might not have much relevance to this
part of our study.

OPTION #2:

The Jebusites were also **hated** enemies, on account of their evil.
They were one of seven nations that had become so wicked, that
God told Israel to utterly destroy them, when Israel first entered the
land of Canaan. [Israel did not fully obey... and eventually began to
practice the sins of those nations.]

8

- A focus on individuals: evildoers – because they oppose God.

Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!
They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.
Do I not **hate** those who **hate** you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
I **hate** them with complete **hatred**;
I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalms 139:19-24 (ESV)

This is a psalm
filled with
praise to God.
Hate is
mentioned in
two verses.

If this hate was
sinful, David
would not have
been so eager to
ask God to
test his heart!

9

I **hate** those who worship worthless idols.
I trust in the LORD.
I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing **love**,
for you have seen my troubles,
and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies
but have set me in a safe place.

Psalms 31:6-8 (NLT)

This hate of
idol-worshippers
is associated with
trust in God and
rejoicing in God's
love.

I **hate** double-minded people,
but I **love** your law.
You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word.
Away from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commands of my God!

Psalms 119:113-115 (NIV)

Double-minded
people are trying to
do what Jesus says
cannot be done:
attempting to serve
two masters!

10

- A focus on individuals: evildoers – because of their evilness.

Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
For your steadfast **love** is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.

I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.
I **hate** the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

Psalms 26:2-7 (ESV)

Once again, this
expression of hate
is in a psalm filled
with praise to
God... and a
request for God to
test his heart and
mind!

Throughout this
psalm, David
affirms his
innocent and
blameless life.

11

God's people hating...

✓ **Everyone and everything.**
(But only in a specific context.)

- You cannot be a follower of God AND something else! It's
"either-or." (This warning is repeated twice in the gospels.)

"No servant can serve two masters, for either
he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or he
will be devoted to the one and despise the
other. You cannot serve God and money."
The Pharisees (who loved money) heard all
this and ridiculed him. But Jesus said to them,
"You are the ones who justify yourselves in
men's eyes, but God knows your hearts. For
what is highly prized among men is utterly
detestable in God's sight."

Luke 16:13-15 (NET)

Here, the verse is
followed by a
warning to those
who claim to follow
God, yet have
hearts focused on
something else.
(Many church-
goers are like this.)

12

"No one can serve two masters, since either he will **hate** one and **love** the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

"Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... For the Gentiles [= "unbelievers"] eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."

Matthew 6:24-25, 32-33 (CSB)

Here, the verse is followed by a *reminder* that we need to focus on God. We should trust God, and let him "worry" about the things related to the "money" focus.

(The unsaved are the ones who preoccupy themselves with these other matters!)

13

- Following Jesus is our #1 priority. It takes precedence over love for family... for self... for anything.

"If anyone comes to me and does not **hate** father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

[Here: Two parables to illustrate these things.]

"In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."

Luke 14:26-27, 33 (NIV)

The one who **loves** his life will lose it, and the one who **hates** his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:25-26 (CSB)

COMPARE THESE TWO:

"The person who **loves** his father or mother more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. The person who **loves** a son or daughter more than me does not deserve to be my disciple."

Matthew 10:37 (GW)

14

Patterns and trends (1).

How the Bible uses the concept of HATE.

Good HATE tends to be a moral reaction, a loathing of evil; the world's HATE tends to be more selfish and vindictive.

⇒ About the concept "hate" itself:

About the HATE.	When the wicked do it.	When God and his people do it.
The "things" that are hated.	Godly character, attitudes, actions.	Wicked character, attitudes, actions.
The "people" who are hated.	Anyone may be hated; also God.	Wicked people (for specific reasons).
Why?	NO good reason.	Good reasons.
Can it coexist with love?	(Only a corrupt type of "love.")	Yes.

15

⇒ Types of THINGS that resulted in good hate:

- What God hated:
- All forms of false worship, idolatry, religious pretense.
 - All kinds of evil practices.

- What godly people hated:
- All that is contrary to God and his Word.
 - All kinds of evil practices.

⇒ Reasons that PEOPLE were recipients of good hate:

- Why God hated:
- Sovereign choice (which corresponded to the choices made later by those involved).
 - The recipients of God's love rejected his love. (If they repent, love will be restored.)
 - The people loved and did evil.

- Why godly people hated:
- They (the wicked) hated God, and chose to go after idols.
 - They (the wicked) loved evil.

16

Patterns and trends (2).

How the Bible uses HATE and LOVE together.

It is better to see how the Bible uses the concepts, than to come to the Bible with preconceived notions and opinions.

⇒ **Reminder: There is a time for each.** (As we shall see, there may be a time for both together.)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ...

... a time to **love**, and a time to **hate**; ...

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8a (ESV)

We need to learn which time is for which... so we will do things the right way!

17

⇒ ONE INDIVIDUAL: Hates one thing AND loves another thing.

(These things are incompatible opposites, so both cannot be loved.)

- When God and/or his people do it:

What is HATED.	What is LOVED.	Scripture reference.
Robbery, wrongdoing	Justice	Isaiah 61:8
Falsehood	God's Law	Psalms 119:163
Evil	Good	Amos 5:15
Evil	The LORD	Psalms 97:10
Evil / lawlessness	Justice / righteousness	Psalms 45:7; Hebrews 1:9
The wicked; those loving violence	Justice [therefore: the upright]	Psalms 11:5, 7
Double-minded people	God's Law	Psalms 119:113

[The "sovereignty" passage, about God loving Jacob (Israel) and hating Esau (Edom) – Malachi 1:2-3 and Romans 9:13 – is not included here, because it is not about responses on the "human responsibility" level of existence.]

18

- When the wicked do it (typical examples):

What is HATED.	What is LOVED.	Scripture reference.
Enemy	Neighbor	Matthew 5:43
Brother	God (so they claim)	1 John 4:20
Good	Evil	Micah 3:2
Wisdom	Death (though they don't admit it)	Proverbs 8:36

FROM THESE PASSAGES (GOOD AND BAD), WE CAN EASILY SEE:

- God-honoring hate and the hate of the wicked are opposites.
- Hate and love often go together. (Even the wicked do it, though they do it backwards.)
 - ✦ In these verses, *good* hate is normally expressed within the context of love – God's love for them, or their love for God.
- The issue isn't the coexistence of hate and love, but how they should rightly coexist.

19

⇒ **TWO INDIVIDUALS: One hates AND the other loves.**

- BOTH hate and love may be good:
(There may also be a cause-effect relationship between them.)

What is HATED.	What is LOVED.	Scripture reference.
[David] hates idolaters	[God] loves David	Psalms 31:6-7
[David] hates evildoers	[God] loves David	Psalms 26:3, 5

- ONE or BOTH may be evil:

	What is HATED.	What is LOVED.	Scripture reference.
ONE EVIL	[God] hates lying (perjury)	[You] love lying (perjury)	Zechariah 8:17
BOTH EVIL	[Others] hating God	[The king] loving those who hate God	2 Chronicles 19:2

- The response the king should have had: Hating as a *response* to hate:

What is HATED.	What is HATED.	Scripture reference.
[Others] hating God	[David] hating the haters	Psalms 139:21-22

20

⇒ **CHANGE: Love that is changed into hate.** (Also, the reason for it.)

There can be a legitimate reason for love turning into hate.
But the change can also be sinful.

- Here, the reason was legitimate:

What was LOVED; but now is HATED.	Reason for the change.	Scripture reference.
Israel (by God)	Because Israel turned away from God	Jeremiah 12:7-8; Hosea 9:15

[If we read further in these prophetic Scriptures, we discover that they will someday repent... and will again be loved.]

- Here, the reason was evil:

What was LOVED; but now is HATED.	Reason for the change.	Scripture reference.
Tamar [by Ammon]	After he raped her	2 Samuel 13:15

21

⇒ **PRIORITIES: Who should be hated AND who should be loved?**

(Wrong priorities may include a rebuke, implying that the *opposite* is needed.)

- Right priorities [the word "love" is not always present]:

What is [should be] HATED.	What is [should be] LOVED.	Scripture reference.
One master [= wealth, security]	The other master [= God]	Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13
Family, self	Jesus [implied]	Luke 14:26-27 (compare to Matthew 10:37-38)
One's own life	Jesus [implied]	John 12:25-26

- Wrong priorities:

What is HATED.	What is LOVED.	Scripture reference.
Those who love you (It is like punishing them for their love.)	Those who hate you (It is like rewarding them for their hate.)	2 Samuel 19:6

22

★ How should we respond to all this? ★

- Realize that there is a consistent pattern in what the Bible says!
 - The world's type of hate (the type we normally see) is consistently condemned.
 - The type of hate that the Bible considers "good" is consistently the opposite of what the world does.
- The fact that "good" hate is presented in such a consistent way in Scripture should be enough to convince us that such a "hate" does exist. (It's not a "grammatical glitch" in some obscure passage.)
 - This is the only type of hate we should have!



(How does this all relate to love? We plan to look at this issue next time.)

23

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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24